

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

DIVISION OF BIOLOGY

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Dr. Josh Lederberg
Department of Genetics
The University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

I was, of course, pleased and interested to receive the addendum to your summary comment, in this afternoon's mail. It would be nice to have a chance for a session on this some time.

One point I am somewhat curious about is whether your failure to refer to the paper Dick Schweet and I presented at Gatlinburg in 1957 (J. Cell. and Comp. Physiol. 50: 199-228) is a calculated omission, and if so whether you would be willing to indicate the reason for it. As you know, the paper has been pretty largely ignored, and I have not been inclined to beat the drums for it. Nevertheless, in view of the relatively unfriendly reception it received at the time, I would rather like to see it given some attention now that thought seems to be drifting more in that direction, unless there are good reasons for simply keeping quiet about it.

At the time, we were not prepared to be very specific about the nature of the effect on DNA that we postulated for the initial action of antigen, and I would still prefer not to have our suggestion interpreted as necessarily requiring a change in nucleotide sequence. It is in this connection particularly that I find your recent contribution most interesting.

With best regards to the Lederbergs and our other friends at Wisconsin,

Sincerely yours,



Ray D. Owen
Professor of Biology

RDO/jl